

Region 6 FY 2003 Environmental Justice Action Plan Progress Report

At the end of FY2003, Region 6 established the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (OEJTA) in the Regional Administrator's office. Although both programs existed separately prior to the 2003 reorganization, the new structure elevates their importance.

Fiscal Year 2003 marked the implementation of the Environmental Justice Action Plan (EJAP) process. Region 6 had a strategy for integrating EJ into its programs, but EJAP provides a better mechanism for tracking and highlighting initiatives. This narrative, in concert with the accompanying matrix, highlights key accomplishments of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ). OEJ accomplishments include:

- Strengthening the organizational structure of the Regional EJ initiative by creating a new Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs. This action facilitates improved communication and collaboration of EJ and tribal issues in the Region;
- Developing and implementing the first national Environmental Justice Listening Session in Houston, Texas in November, 2002;
- Providing EJ training to approximately 300 Region 6 staff and other stakeholders, including personnel from state agencies, other federal agencies, and community members;
- Focusing inspections and compliance assistance activities in areas identified as high risk;
- Providing technical assistance to Tribes that are developing and/or implementing water programs;
- Holding the Region 6 Environmental Justice-U.S. Mexico Border Roundtable in September 2003.

Creation of the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs:

The Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (OEJTA) was created in 2003 as a part of the Regional Administrator's office. The new office, headed by a Director, is made up of the EJ team and the Tribal team. Each team is led by an Associate Director. It is anticipated that this new organizational structure will strengthen the Region's approach to both the EJ and the tribal programs and will facilitate collaboration on common issues and initiatives. The OEJTA is comprised of 17 staff members.

Region 6 EJ Listening Session - November 2003:

Region 6 held the first EJ Listening Session in the nation in November 2002 in Houston, TX. Region 6 worked with a steering committee to plan the meeting and identify key issues and concerns for discussion. Over 300 community, industry, and government participants met for 2½ days in a series of solution-oriented listening sessions.

The steering committee, made up primarily of community-based representatives, helped EPA frame key issues for discussion by developing and presenting white papers. Discussion topics included enforcement and supplemental projects, siting and relocation, employment and worker training, permitting, public participation, and U.S./Mexico border issues.

In addition to EPA, other agencies at the state and federal level participated in the sessions. The dialogue resulted in the identification of proposed solutions or action items. EJ staff continues to meet with steering committee members on a regular basis. Region 6 managers will meet with stakeholders during the April 2004 NEJAC to discuss follow-up to the listening session.

EJ Training:

Fourteen EJ training sessions have been held since the training initiative was launched in 2001. A team of six EPA staff and two community-based partners provide training to internal and external audiences.

Approximately 300 individuals from EPA, as well as from other government agencies, Tribal, and community-based organizations, have been trained. In December 2003, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) hosted the training for its managers and staff. The Region will continue its EJ training initiative in 2004 by offering the training two times each quarter to regional staff and state personnel. Participants have expressed a need for advanced EJ training that addresses specific program responsibilities.

Grants Training:

Region 6 has conducted grant writing training in order to build community capacity and to increase the number and quality of the applications for the EJ Small Grants and the Collaborative Problem-solving Grants.

Additional information regarding these and other key initiatives and accomplishments are included in the matrix.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES MATRIX

Rev. 02/2004

GOAL A - INTERNAL/EXTERNAL TRAINING

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	DURATION/ DUE DATE	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	RESOURCES (FTE/\$)	LEAD CONTACT	STATUS
1. EJ Training Collaborative Implementation	<p>1a. Identify/develop annual training priorities</p> <p>1b. Provide EJ Train the Trainer opportunities partner with other regions, HQ to present Train-the-Trainer</p> <p>1c. Develop/ Nurture Training partnerships with EJ stakeholders - Establish training Partnerships with TCEQ - Establish partnerships with community -based groups</p> <p>1d. Present EJ Training - Conduct two sessions per quarter</p>	<p>1a. ongoing</p> <p>1b. 11/02-3/03</p> <p>1c. ongoing</p> <p>1d. Quarterly</p>	<p>1a. Task Completed</p> <p>1b. Task Completed</p> <p>1c. Task Completed</p> <p>1d. Task Completed</p>	<p>1a. 20 hours</p> <p>1b. \$15K</p> <p>1c. 40 hours</p> <p>1d. 1 FTE</p>	Shirley Augurson/Mary Wilson	<p>1a. Developed Region 6 EJ Training Plan & Goals; - identified recommended training levels by functions - identified training goals for CY03</p> <p>1b. N/A</p> <p>1c. Partnered with LA Dept of Env. Quality (LDEQ) and presented training to LDEQ staff (12/03)</p> <p>1d. Presented EJ Training to EPA Region 6 staff twice each quarter. In CY03, eight sessions were held with approximately 200 participants.</p>
2. Enhance knowledge of Tribal Wetlands Issues	2a. Conduct 2 workshops	2a. Oct. 2002	2a. Accuracy and timeliness	2a. As needed and available	Troy Hill 6WQ-EM	Completed & conducted a wetland presentation at the tribal summit in Albu, N.M. and in Socorro, N.M.
3. Surface Water Quality Monitoring and/or Standards issues	3. Provide training to Tribal Nations to enhance knowledge	3. Biannually.	3. Accuracy and timeliness	3. As needed and available	Sharon Parrish 6WQ-EW	Provided water quality monitoring training to Ok. Tribes to familiarize them with the basics on water quality & watersheds, water monitoring study design, habitat, chemical,

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	DURATION/ DUE DATE	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	RESOURCES (FTE/\$)	LEAD CONTACT	STATUS
						and biological monitoring, data analysis, decisions and reporting and field monitoring techniques.
4. Conduct EJ Index Methodology Training Update/Refresher	4a. Solicit/enroll internal & external attendees for training 4b. Conduct training update	4(a)(b). As needed basis; as resources permit	4(a)(b). Training completed	4(a)(b). As needed and available	Joan Brown 6WQ-A	The plan was to conduct the EJ Index Methodology training on an as needed basis. No training was requested by the State Revolving Fund (SRF) agencies in 2003.
5. Conduct training on drinking water and system operation and develop rules	5. Provide training on Tribal Drinking Water Systems	5. As needed	5. Accuracy and timeliness	5. As needed and available	Blake Atkins 6WQ-SD	<p>1. Provided Tribal Drinking Water System Performance Based Training to Reg. 6 N.M. tribes. Taught tribal drinking water system operators to optimize the performance of their public water systems, thereby improving public health protection for tribal communities.</p> <p>2. Provided Tribal Total Coliform Rule Training sessions in Albuquerque & offered strategies for complying w/drinking water regs.</p> <p>3. Provided a 3-day Economic Development & Tribal Health Training to Tribal Admins. on drinking water infrastructure & economic development.</p>
6. Provide guidance, direction, and training on a continued basis	6. Provide training if necessary to the state and encourage staff to attend internal EJ training.	6. 10/1/04	6. State and internal staff knowledgeable about the importance of EJ initiatives.	6. N/A	Teresa Cooks 6EN EJ Rep	Continuing process - Ultimate goal is for staff to make EJ a part of their daily routine thus eliminating the need for progress reports. 6EN staff have participated in the EJ Fundamentals training. We are currently encouraging all staff to attend the fundamentals training session and we are working with

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	DURATION/ DUE DATE	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	RESOURCES (FTE/\$)	LEAD CONTACT	STATUS
						the R6 OEJ to provide specific OECA EJ training for our managers. Our ultimate goal is for EJ consciousness to be raised to a level that makes it a part of our daily activities.
7. To improve communication between local responders	7. Conduct two-day workshop at South Padre Island Convention for police, fire and medical personnel from McAllen to Brownsville, Texas	7. Oct.21-22, 2002	7. Timeliness	7. Contract	Fendol Chiles 6SF-R1	Completed on 8/13/03
8. Awareness level for Weapons of Mass Destruction for local officials	8. Conduct four (4) one day workshops in the cities of Laredo, McAllen, Eagle Pass, and El Paso, Texas	8. Nov.2002 to May 2003	8. Training completed	8. As needed and contractual	Fendol Chiles 6SF-R1	Completed on 10/28/03
9. Educate tribes about new grant opportunities	9a. Presentations and displays at Tribal Summits and individual visits to various tribes 9b. Award a new assessment and cleanup grant to a tribe or tribal consortia.	9a. Oct.2002 thru June 2003 9b. May 2003	9a Familiarize all tribes with new grant program 9b. Award at least (1) new cooperative agreement to a tribe or consortia	9. 0.1 FTE	Dorothy Crawford 6SF-PB	Completed
10. Target several border communities for new brownfields grants.	10. Conduct at least one workshop	10. Feb 2003	10. Award at least one new cooperative agreement for site assessment RLF and cleanup to a border community	10. 0.3 FTE	Dorothy Crawford 6SF-PB	Completed
11. Brownfield program outreach to several EJ communities	11. Make presentations at several conferences and meetings throughout the year where EJ communities are involved.	11. Oct.-Sept. 2003	11. Award at least 10 new cooperative agreements to EJ communities	11. 0.2 FTE	Roger Hancock 6SF-PB	Completed

GOAL B - PROGRAM INTEGRATION

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact	Status
1. Execute EJ Implementation Strategy	1a. Assess progress of Program Commitment -Review progress reports	1a. ongoing	1a. Task completed	1a. 40 hours	Shirley Augurson 6RA-DJ	1a. , 1c Progress Reports completed 05/03
	1b. Plan/implement awareness of EJ Implementation activities -participate in open houses/ exhibits -participate in Program meeting and events (tribal summit, RTOC)	1b. ongoing	1b. Task completed	1b. 40 hours	EJ Workgroup	1b. Developed addendum to EJ Strategy to address EJ Training
	1c. Develop EJ annual accomplishment report.	1c. annually	1c. Task completed	1c. 280 hours		1c. Annual report completed 05/03
2. Investigation/Inspections	2. Target inspections in high risk disproportionately exposed areas.	2. 10/1/04	2. Over 50% of inspections in EJ areas.	NA	Michael Michaud, 6EN	83% Air; 43% RCRA; 51% Water
3. Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)	3. Encourage SEPs in high risk disproportionately exposed areas.	3. 10/1/04	3. At least 50% of SEPs in EJ areas.	NA	Teresa Cooks 6EN	Work with EJ communities to develop SEPs
4. Compliance Assistance	4. Encourage Compliance Assistance (CA) activities in high risk disproportionately exposed areas.	4. 10/1/04	4. At least 50% of CA activities in EJ areas.	NA	Bonnie Romo 6EN	FY03 -107 12% in EJ areas ****
5. EJ CWA Permitting Program	5a. Assist in the development of a module to incorporate EJ into CWA Permitting Program 5b. Conduct training update	5. As needed basis; as resources permit	5. CWA EJ Permitting module developed	NA	Monica Burrell 6WQ-PP	

GOAL C - COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact	Status
1. Communicate with other agencies	<p>1a. Alert other agencies to areas of concern when EPA does not have regulatory authority to enforce.</p> <p>1b. Alert other agencies to areas of concern and work collaboratively to ensure protection of human health and the environment.</p>	<p>1a. 10/1/04</p> <p>1b. 10/4/04</p>	<p>1a. Other Agencies have addressed areas of concern beyond our jurisdiction.</p> <p>1b. Multi-Agency approaches to addressing areas of concern.</p>	NA	Deputy Director for Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division	Matters referred as needed
2. Develop and Enhance Tribal Wetlands Program	2. Resolve issues on grants which result from technical problems	2. As needed basis	2. Accuracy and timeliness	2. As needed and available.	Troy Hill 6WQ-EM	Completed EPA's response to any tribal request & processed in timely manner.
3. Planning and Scoping Process Implementation	<p>3a. Conduct pre-execution negotiations with local officials</p> <p>3b. Conduct Planning and Scoping Meetings</p> <p>3c. Develop Follow-up Plan</p> <p>3d. Implement EJ Index Methodology</p>	<p>3a. 11/1/02</p> <p>3b. 1/15/03 - 3/30/03</p> <p>3c. 6/03</p> <p>3d. Ongoing</p>	<p>3a. Secure buy-in</p> <p>3b. Completion of process</p> <p>3c. Completion of followup plan.</p> <p>3d. Complete requests</p>	<p>3a. 0.05 FTE</p> <p>3b. 0.05 FTE</p> <p>3c. 0.05 FTE</p> <p>3d. 0.05 FTE</p>	<p>Shirley Augurson 6RA-DJ</p> <p>Gerald Carney 6EN</p>	<p>3a-c P&S process was replaced by local process; ongoing</p> <p>3d. 1,040 EJ runs 452 for 6EN</p>

GOAL D - OUTREACH

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact	Status
1. Region 6 EJ Listening Session	1a. Formulate Stakeholder Steering Committee and Workgroups 1b. Conduct Regional Listening Session 1c. Implement Follow-up	1a. 10/02 1b. 11/14-16/02 1c. 12/03	1a. Completion of task 1b. Completion of event 1c. Completion of Followup tasks	1(a) (b) 3000 mh \$25K 1c. As needed and available.	Sunita Singhvi 6RA-DJ	First Region 6 Listening Session held 11/02. Monthly follow-up conf. calls are held with steering committee to address action items. R6 working w/Texas & New Mexico to plan state Listening Sessions in CY04
2. Supplemental Environmental Project Idea Library	2a. Advertise our new Citizen SEP Idea Library and encourage citizens to send us their SEP ideas.	2a. 10/1/04	2a. Implemented SEPs from the Citizen Idea Library	2a. NA	Teresa Cooks 6EN	Continuous work w/communities
3. Outreach for Water Programs	3. Community outreach through public education and information by developing audio/visual media, printed material, conducting workshops, access and facilitation, technical support, response to public inquires, environmental education and demonstration activities involving the public, language translation (oral, written and visual media)	3. Situational; Different situations arise that require assistance and support	3. Customer satisfaction based on accuracy, timeliness, reliability, thoroughness	3. As needed and available	Shirley Bruce 6WQ-CO	1. Continue to address health & environmental issues in nail shops. Developing a booklet titled "Best Pollution Prevention Practices for Nail Salons" a guide to improve health and the environment. 2. Handed out brochures & pamphlets at the Vietnamese New Year celebration to inform the community about various EPA programs available More than 5,000 people attended. 3. In the AAPI 2004 Calendar, Reg. 6 features its works with the AAPI Community 4. Translated two documents into Vietnamese on "Tips to Protect Children from Environmental Risks" and "Dry Cleaners in Oregon". 5. Participated in

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						<p>Neighborhood Service Council educational planning & activities and the Cottonwood Park Earth Day.</p> <p>6. Assisted w/planning, organization & activities for a Health Fair held in Stop 6 neighborhood of Ft. Worth.</p> <p>7. Assisted staff & volunteers to create an environmental puppet show for use in educational programs in the MLK Center area and Dallas Public Library.</p> <p>8. Coordinated one-day sessions for the Ground Water Seminar for Tribes in two separate locations for Tribes in Ok.</p>
4. Wastewater/Sewage Treatment	<p>4a. Plan Wastewater/Sewage Treatment listening Session</p> <p>4b. Provide NPDES Expert in area</p>	<p>4a. 3rd qtr. FY02</p> <p>4b. As needed</p>	<p>4a. Listening Session Developed</p> <p>4b. Availability and attendance to Listening Session</p>	<p>4a. NA</p> <p>4b. Travel Resources to Houston</p>	<p>Monica Burrell</p> <p>6WQ-PP</p>	<p>4b1. An NPDES staff attended EJ training.</p> <p>4b2. Met w/& partnered w/Pueblo of Sandia for issuance of Bernalillo & Rio Rancho, N.M., NPDES discharge permits.</p>

5. Collaborative Problem Solving Grant	5. Outreach to potential grantees to assist with CPS application process	5. May-Dec 2003 extended through March 2004	5. Grant/grants awarded to R6. Thereafter, outcomes of the project/projects produced.		Shirley Quinones 6RA-DJ	Coordinated conference calls between communities and HQS. Discussed grant requirements and opened for Q&A. Performed grant writing training and review of CPS guidelines for the applicants/communities..
6. FY 03 EJ Small Grants	6. Outreach to potential grantees to assist with Small Grant process	6. Dec 2002-? Awaiting budget to award the FY 03 grants in FY04	6. Grants awarded in FY04 and outcomes of the projects.		Shirley Quinones 6RA-DJ	Reviewed and selected 5 applicants for multimedia and 2 for Superfund grants.
7. Regional Administrator's Speaking engagements	7. Speaking engagements to EJ audiences	7. 09/2003, 09/2003	7. Speaking engagements		Rhonda Smith (6XA)	Sept, 2003 LEAN Conference Sept, 2003 U.S. Mexico Border Roundtable

GOAL E - STATE IMPLEMENTATION

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact	
1. State Enforcement MOA's	1. Encourage EJ initiatives in State MOA.	1.10/1/04	1. EJ initiatives in State MOA	1. N/A	Teresa Cooks 6EN	Continuous
2. Incorporate EJ requirements in PPG/PPA's	2a. Draft grant conditions	2a. 3/03	2a. Task Completed	2a. 0.01FTE	Shirley Augurson 6RA-DJ Charles Faultry 6PD	No specific language has been developed at this time.
	2b. Negotiate outputs/performance measures	2b. 5/03	2b. Include language in agreement	2b. 0.01 FTE		

GOAL F: BORDER EJ ACTIVITIES

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FTE/\$)	Lead Contact	
1. Enhance Grantees knowledge of EJ	1. Discuss EJ during Annual Program evaluations for Colonia Programs	1. Annual.	1. Completion of Review	1. NA	Joan Brown 6WQ-A	The Annual Program evaluation for the Colonia Programs was conducted 8-12-03. The evaluation covered program accomplishments and requirements including EJ.
2. Border Compliance Assistance Center	2. One-Stop-Shop for small to medium size businesses to help them understand their regulatory obligation related to import/export and transportation of hazardous waste between the US and Mexico. Will present information in English and Spanish.	2. 10/1/03	2. Number of users and voluntary online survey will provide information on improved understanding of requirements.	2. NA	Bonnie Romo 6EN	CY03 19,795 users.
3. Border EJ Roundtable	3a. Invite stakeholders, agency officials, etc. 3b. Conduct Meeting in El Paso TX	3. 09/16/03	3a. Completion of task 3b. Deliverables that incorporate solutions	3. .02 FTE	Nelda Pérez 6RA-DJ Gina Weber 6PD	Follow-up activities were completed by 02/01. Notes and requested information were provided participants.

GOAL G- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FT/\$)	Lead Contact	
1. Assist tribes in resolving Wetland Issues	1. Provide technical and regulatory assistance	1. As needed basis	1. Accuracy and Timeliness	1. As needed and available	Troy Hill 6WQ-EM	Completed EPA's letters of certification on tribal trust lands & accurately conveyed EPA's position.
2. Administration: Support NPDES, NEPA, UIC. and other environmental permitting requirements	2. Prepare & distribute public notices, provide translation services and informational material; conduct public hearings and meetings and, respond to inquiries.	2. Situational; contingent on number of permits issued.	2. Customer satisfaction based on timeliness, accuracy, thoroughness and reliability	2. As needed and available	Jeanie Frankie 6WQ-CA	Five (5) NPDES permits were issued and four (4) were public noticed in New Mexico
3. Assist with Data Support.	3. Support the EJ Website and GIS Database	3. Situational throughout the year; varies	3. Customer satisfaction based on accuracy, timeliness, reliability, thoroughness.	3. As needed; and available.	Tom Nelson 6WQ-CD	Assisted on the EJ Web site conversion to the Agency Look and Feel Standards.
4. Assist with Surface Water Quality Monitoring Issues	4. Provide technical assistance to Tribal Nations	4. Biannually	4. Accuracy and timeliness	4. As needed and available	Sharon Parrish 6WQ-EW	Provided technical assistance to numerous N.M., OK & TX Tribes during workplan, quality assurance project plan, and quarterly final report reviews throughout year, ie, monitoring objectives and design, field monitoring techniques, QA, QC procedures, & data assessment approaches.
5. Assist with Surface Water Quality Standards	5. Provide technical assistance to Tribal Nations	5. Biannually	5. Accuracy and timeliness	5. As needed and available	Sharon Parrish 6WQ-EW	Completed review & approval of Pueblo of Pojoaque & Pueblo of Pizaris WQS. which included ESA consultation. Developed a biological evaluation for ESA consultation on the Pueblo of Isleta WQS & reviewed the Pueblo of Nambe's proposed WQS & attended public hearing. Also assisted the Quapaw Tribe in proposing WQS for public review and reviewed draft WQS prepared

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FT/\$)	Lead Contact	
						by several tribes.
6. Assist communities and tribes	6. On-site assistance as needed to address drinking water, UIC, and ground water issues	6. Contingent on complexity	6. Accuracy and timeliness	6. As needed and available	Larry Wright 6WQ-S	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Met w/Osage tribal reps to assist in primacy development for UIC program & provided resource requirements for program implementation. 2. Responded to citizen complaint on ground water contamination of private domestic water wells by a local oil & gas operator in minority community in Panola Co., Tx. 3. Responded to over 60 violations of drinking water regulations at tribal drinking water systems in 2003. 4. Conducted on-site evaluations of tribal community drinking water systems for for three Indian Pueblos. Evaluations prepared tribes to plan for drinking water system expansion & provided a base-line assessment of water system condition, prior to initiating the performance based training pilot. 5. Provided technical assistance to Mescalero Apache Tribal Utility staff related to enforcement actions initiated by the 6EN. 6. Began publishing & developing a tribal drinking water newsletter for all Region 6 Tribes that own or operate public water systems.

Strategies	Activities	Duration/ Due Date	Performance Measures	Resources (FT/\$)	Lead Contact	